

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /071 W
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R 170435Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8644

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 11916

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK

SUBJECT: PAK/AFGHAN TALKS

1. DURING CALL OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS ON FOREIGN MINISTER AGHA SHAHI NOVEMBER 16, LATTER SAID THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN BHUTTO AND DAOUD MAY BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. SHAHI SAID THEIR REPORTS FROM KABUL INDICATED THAT DAOUD IS UNDER INCREASING SOVIET PRESSURE EITHER NOT TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN ON THEIR OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES OR TO NEGOTIATE SUCH AN AGREEMENT ONLY UNDER SOVIET AUSPICES. SHAHI SAID THAT THE GOP UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN KABUL WAS PREDICTING THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER TALKS, AND NOTED PERSISTENT REPORTS THAT DAOUD WOULD SOON VISIT MOSCOW. HE ALSO REFERRED TO A "CRYPTIC" COMMENT FROM NEWLY ARRIVED AFGHAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE ETEMADI, THAT THE SPECIAL INDO-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP HAD A BEARING ON THE PAK/AFGHAN DIALOGUE.

2. THE ABOVE COMMENTS WERE MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF A RATHER GLOOMY, BUT NOT ATYPICAL, PRESENTATION BY SHAHI
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OF GOP'S CONCERNS OVER SOVIET PRESSURES AND ITS DESIRE

TO ACHIEVE HEGEMONY IN SOUTH ASIA. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT THE SOVIETS MAY BE EXERTING SOME PRESSURE ON THE
AFGHANS, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE GOP IS IN NO HURRY
TO PROCEED WITH THE NEXT ROUND IN THE BHUTTO/DAOUD
DIALOGUE BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULT INTERNAL PROBLEMS THAT
WILL NEED TO BE WORKED OUT IF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT
IS REACHED WITH AFGHANISTAN.
BYROADE

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